

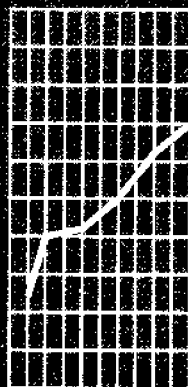


September 1997

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Business Indicators

Australian Capital Territory



NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
October 1997	20 October 1997
November 1997	17 November 1997

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication
p	preliminary
*	Represents data with a standard error of greater than 25%. Caution should be exercised when using this data.
—	nil or rounded to zero

INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Kingsley Green on Canberra (02) 6207 0286 or any ABS State office.

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

Daima Jacobs
Regional Director

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the August 1997 issue are: labour force; housing finance; industrial disputes; building approvals; retail turnover; new motor vehicle registrations; average weekly earnings; house prices; and tourist accommodation. There is a feature article on Annual (1995-96) State Accounts for the ACT on pages 7, 8 and 9.

NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

Labour force Trend employment decreased marginally (down 0.2% to be 158,300) in August with the ACT recording its second consecutive month of decline, after seven consecutive months of increase. The continued increase in the trend unemployment rate (7.7% in August) is a result of falling numbers of people in part-time employment. The trend participation rate remained steady at 73.1% in August, after recording seven consecutive months of increase. Nationally, trend employment decreased marginally (down 0.02%) in August from the previous month, while the unemployment rate remained steady at 8.7%.

Industrial disputes In May 1997, there were 122 working days lost per 1,000 employees in the ACT compared to 103 days lost per thousand in Australia. This represented a 6.2% decrease for the ACT and a 12.0% decrease for Australia from the previous month's figure.

Housing finance The trend number of dwelling units financed (includes refinancing) in the ACT during July 1997 decreased to 638 dwellings, a fall of 2.9%. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT was \$66.5 million, a decrease of 3.3% on the previous month. Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 20.8% of the total number of new dwelling units financed in July 1997, which was down 1.9 percentage points on the previous month.

Housing and construction

The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT decreased by 17.9% to 87 dwelling units in July 1997. The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT has fallen for each of the last six months. Nationally the total number of dwelling units approved decreased by 1.3% in July 1997, representing its fourth consecutive fall since March 1997.

The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was \$27.5 million in July 1997, an increase of \$14.5 million (or 111.9%) from the previous month and a decrease of \$9.7 million (26.0%) from July 1996.

Retail turnover The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for July 1997 was \$211.1 million, up 1.6% on the previous month's figure of \$207.8 million. The national trend retail turnover experienced an increase of 0.4% on the previous month.

Motor vehicle registrations The trend estimate for new motor vehicle registrations for the ACT in July 1997 was 1,206, up 3.2% on the previous month, and up 28.0% on 12 months ago. The series has now recorded nine consecutive months of increase. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in July 1997 recorded a 0.4% increase on the previous months figure, and has experienced 10 consecutive months of increase.

Average weekly earnings

The trend average weekly earnings for May quarter 1997 was \$670.50, an increase of 0.3% from the February quarter 1997 figure. Nationally, the trend average weekly earnings increased by 0.5% to \$579.10.

House prices

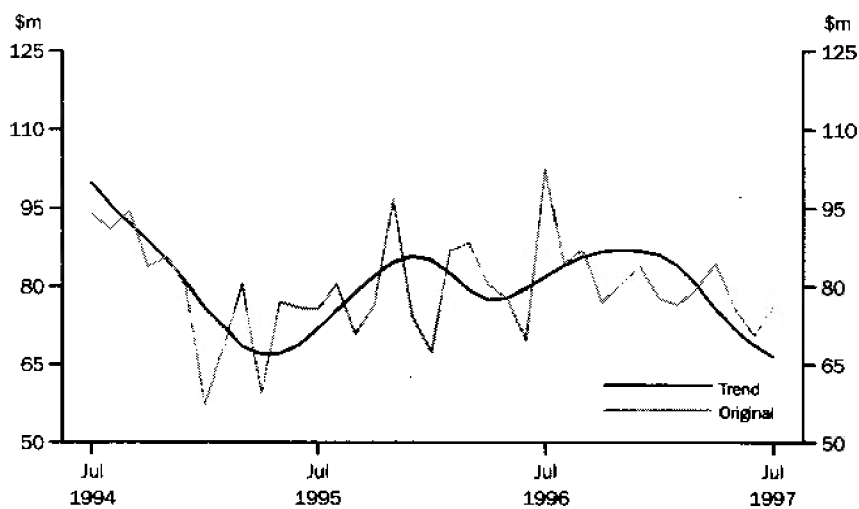
The quarterly established house price index for Canberra increased by 2.4% in the June quarter 1997, although the index recorded a decline of 0.1% over the year to date. The weighted average of eight capital cities increased 1.3% in the June quarter 1997, and 2.8% over the previous year.

Tourist accommodation

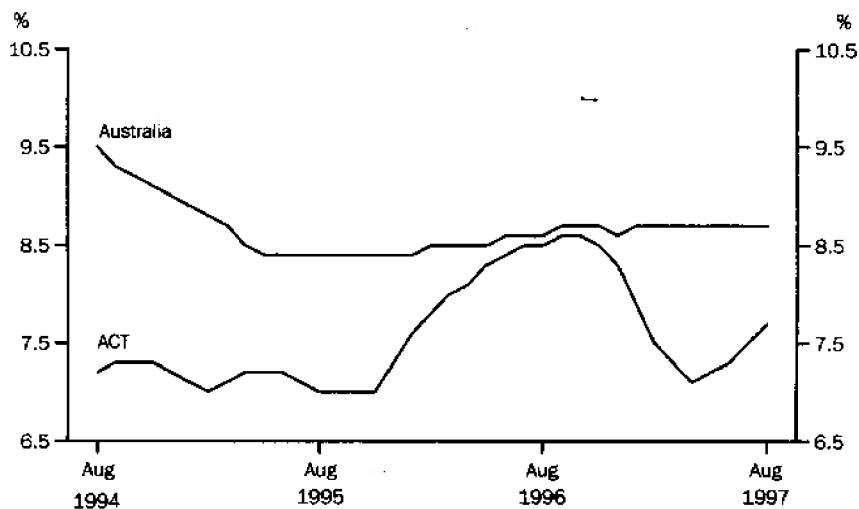
Room occupancy rates for ACT hotels, motels and guest houses in the June quarter 1997 was 54.5%, down 3.5 percentage points on the previous quarter and 9.0 percentage points on 12 months ago.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

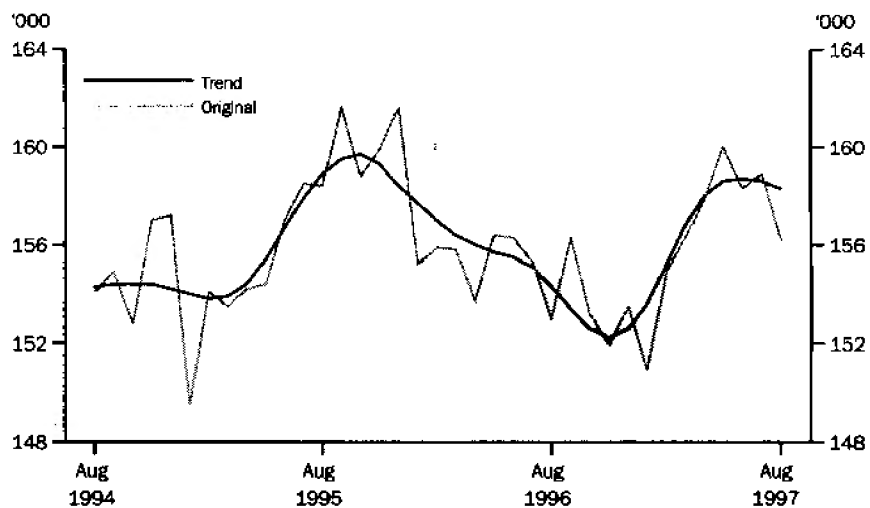
HOUSING FINANCE
COMMITMENTS



LABOUR FORCE — TREND
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

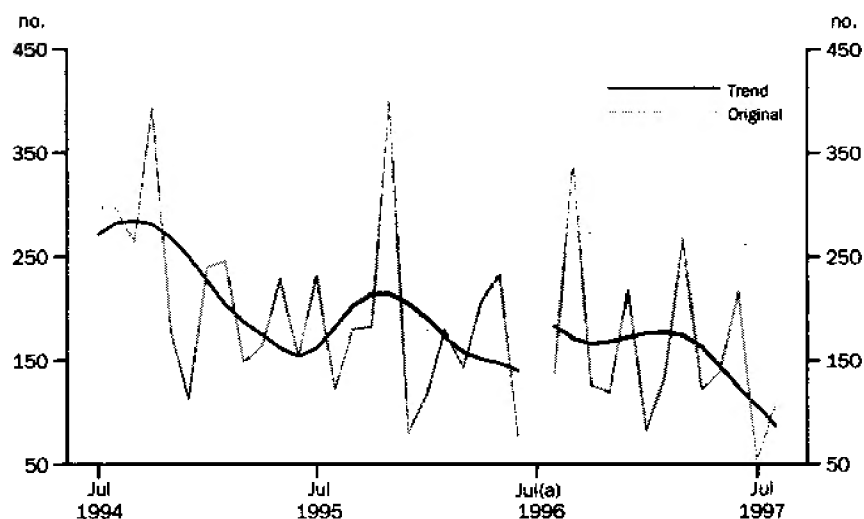


LABOUR FORCE —
EMPLOYMENT



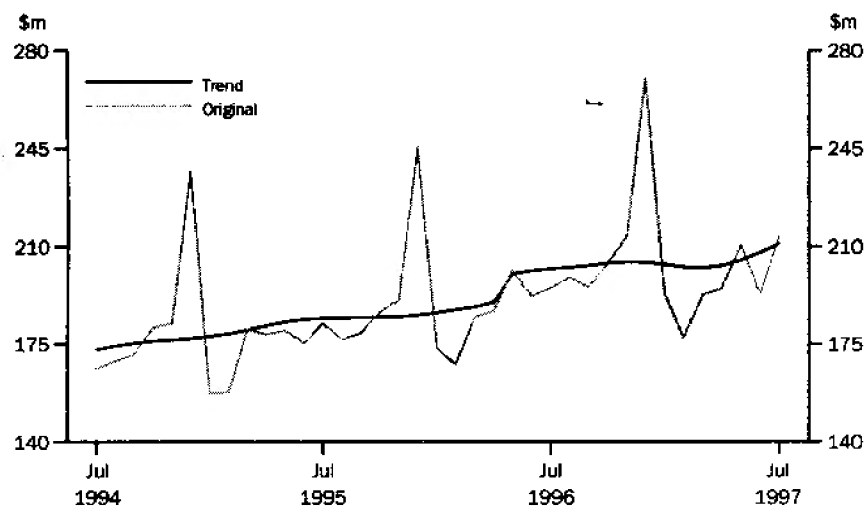
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS *continued*

BUILDING APPROVAL — DWELLING UNITS APPROVED

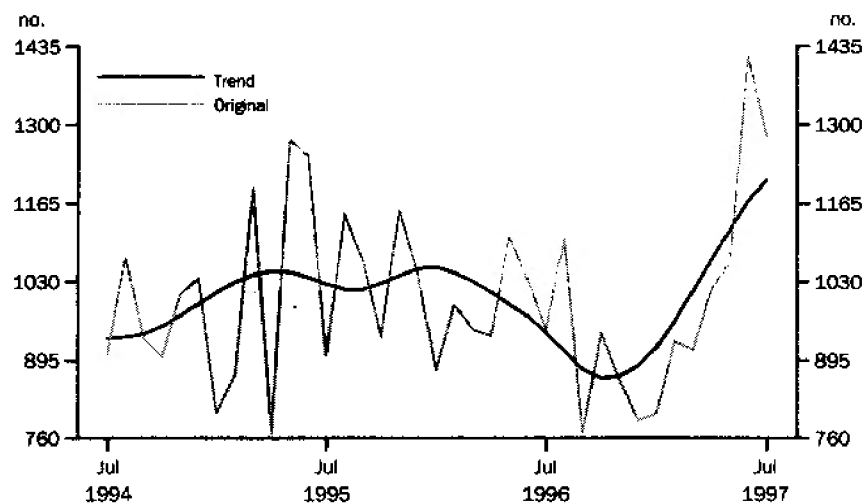


(a) For the period July to December 1996, 165 dwelling units and total building work of \$40.5 million (16%) had been incorrectly omitted from data reported to ABS. All series for the ACT have been revised from July 1996. As further information is received and analysed, the series prior to that are likely to be revised. A trend break has been included in the graph.

RETAIL TURNOVER



NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

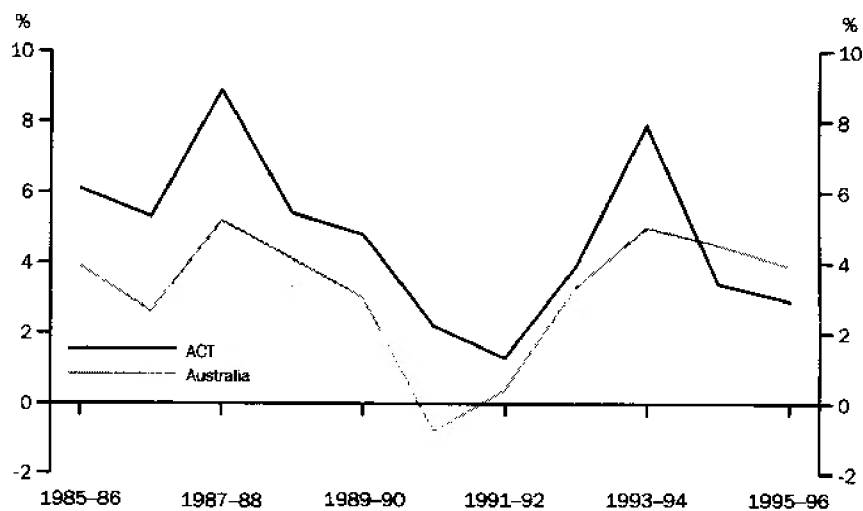


The estimates of gross state product (GSP) at average 1989-90 prices included in this article are regarded as 'experimental'. Users should therefore exercise caution when using these estimates for economic analysis.

Over the period 1984-85 to 1995-96, annual rates of growth in GSP (I) at average 1989-90 prices varied considerably between the states, with growth being strongest in Western Australia (5.2%), the Australian Capital Territory (4.7%), Northern Territory (4.7%) and Queensland (4.5%) and weakest in South Australia (2.5%) and Tasmania (1.6%). The national average annual growth rate of GDP (I) at average 1989-90 prices was 3.3%. The dispersion of growth rates was less, but still significant, in terms of GSP(I) per head of the mean population. The ACT recorded the second highest rate of 2.8%, following Western Australia with 3.2%, and was well above the national average of 1.8%.

The ACT's GSP(I) annual average compound growth rate of 5.1% was higher than that for the rest of Australia (3.0%) over the period 1984-85 to 1993-94. The ACT's relative performance declined in 1994-95 (3.4%) and 1995-96 (2.9%), with its growth rate in this period being below that for the rest of Australia (4.5% and 3.9% respectively).

GROWTH IN EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES OF GSP (I) AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
(Percentage change from previous year)

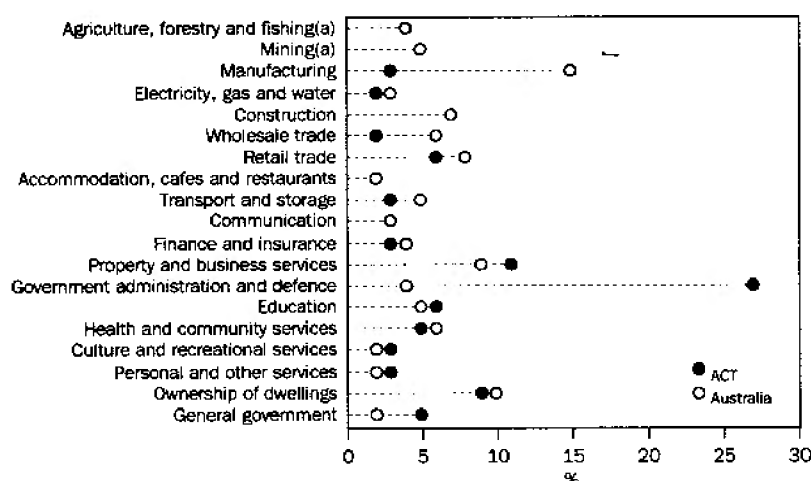


All states, except the ACT, experienced a relative shift from goods producing industries to service providing industries from 1984-85 to 1995-96. Government administration and defence is still the ACT's dominant industry despite recording a fall in its share of GSP (fc) from 29.8% in 1984-85 to 26.9% in 1995-96. Property and business services recorded the greatest increase as a contributor to GSP (fc) between 1984-85 (7.5%) and 1995-96 (11.2%) and is the next largest industry.

The shares of retail trade (6.4% in 1995–96), communication (2.5% in 1995–96) and personal and other services (3.0% in 1995–96) have all increased by one or two percentage points since 1984–85. Education's share of GSP (factor cost) decreased significantly from 8.6% in 1984–85 to 6.3% in 1995–96, while both the construction and transport and storage industries fell by one percentage point over this period.

Nationally, manufacturing remains the largest industry despite recording a fall in its share of GDP (fc) from 18.0% in 1984–85 to 14.5% in 1995–96. Finance and insurance recorded the largest increase as a contributor to GDP (fc) between 1984–85 (1.0%) and 1995–96 (3.9%). Property and business services (9.2% in 1995–96) and ownership of dwellings (9.5% in 1995–96) recorded increases of 2.4 and 1.2 percentage points respectively, while agriculture, forestry and fishing (3.7% in 1995–96), electricity, gas and water (3.1% in 1995–96) and transport and storage (5.1% in 1995–96) each recorded falls of one percentage point.

INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTION TO GSP (fc), 1995–96 (per cent)



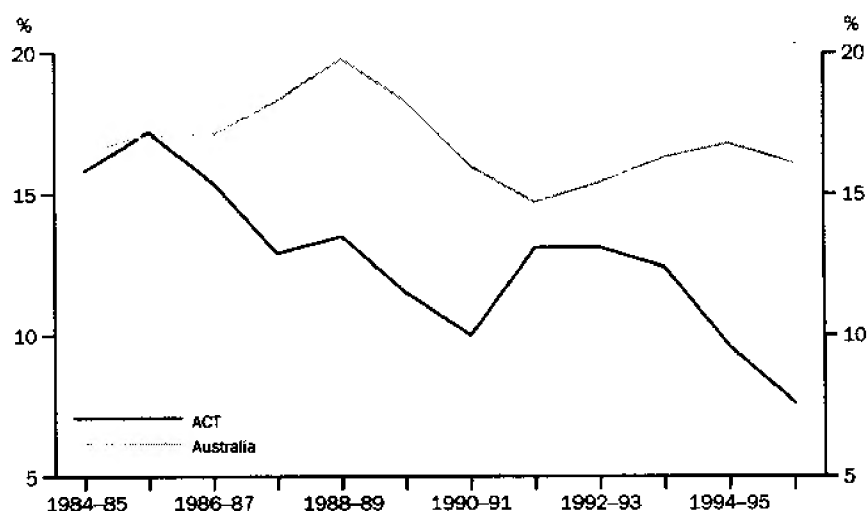
(a) No data available for ACT.

In 1995–96 household income per head of mean population was the highest in the ACT (\$28,654) and lowest in Tasmania (\$17,989). Nationally, household income per head of mean population was \$21,103. Differences between the states reflect differences in the average level of wages, salaries and supplements received per employee, the proportion of the population in employment and the age distribution of the population. For example, a significant reason for the high level of household income per head of mean population in the ACT compared with the other states is that the labour force participation rate is much higher in the ACT.

The following graph compares private fixed capital expenditure as a percentage of GSP for the ACT with Australia over the period 1984–85 to 1995–96. Investment in the ACT peaked in 1985–86 compared with 1988–89 for the rest of Australia. As a percentage of GSP, private capital

investment has been below the rest of Australia in all years in the ACT, Victoria and Tasmania, while being above the rest of Australia for all years in Queensland and Western Australia.

PRIVATE GROSS FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (Percentage of Gross State Product)



The level of private gross fixed capital expenditure in the ACT and the Northern Territory has tended to move independently of national trends. Major resource developments and differences in the timing of property upswings and downswings contribute to differences in investment levels between states.

In regards to private gross fixed capital expenditure by type of asset, the ACT recorded a 26.4% decline in private gross fixed capital expenditure on dwellings in 1995-96, compared to a national fall of 11.4%.

In 1995-96, private non-dwelling construction expenditure increased in all states with the exception of the ACT (down 7.9%). Nationally, there was a 25.9% increase in non-dwelling construction expenditure in 1995-96.

Real estate transfer expenses, as a percentage of private gross fixed capital expenditure, have fluctuated in all states, generally in keeping with property cycles. In 1995-96 the ACT experienced its third consecutive fall in real estate transfers, falling 21.4% compared to a national fall of 1.5%.

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BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1997/JUNE QUARTER 1998, EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE

	ACT	Aust.
<i>Period</i>	%	%
Short-term		
Mar qtr 1996-Jun qtr 1996	1.8	2.3
Jun qtr 1996-Sep qtr 1996	0.4	1.6
Sep qtr 1996-Dec qtr 1996	-0.3	1.6
Dec qtr 1996-Mar qtr 1997	-1.1	0.4
Mar qtr 1997-Jun qtr 1997	1.3	1.6
Jun qtr 1998-Sep qtr 1997	-1.7	0.7
Medium-term		
Mar qtr 1996-Mar qtr 1997	2.3	4.1
Jun qtr 1996-Jun qtr 1997	1.4	3.6
Sep qtr 1996-Sep qtr 1997	1.5	3.1
Dec qtr 1996-Dec qtr 1997	2.2	3.1
Mar qtr 1997-Mar qtr 1998	1.7	2.9
Jun qtr 1997-Jun qtr 1998	2.0	2.4

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION Dec qtr 96	'000	308.5	-0.1	1.0	18 426.9	0.3	1.3
Natural increase	no.	781	4.6	-19.0	31 085	11.6	1.1
Net migration	no.	-991	3 439.3	6.9	24 834	-21.6	-12.6
Total increase	no.	-210	-129.2	-667.6	55 919	-6.1	-5.5
LABOUR FORCE, Aug 97							
Original series							
Employed	'000	156.2	-1.7	2.1	8 315.4	-1.6	-0.1
Unemployed	'000	13.4	20.7	-6.9	764.6	1.8	-0.8
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.9	1.3	-0.7	8.4	0.2	-0.1
Participation rate(a)	%	72.3	-0.1	0.5	62.2	-0.9	-1.0
Long-term unemployed (Jul 97)	no.	2 780	-12.2	-13.4	235 990	-1.4	13.0
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (Jul 97)(a)	—	25.0	-0.7	0.8	31.4	-0.5	2.9
Trend series							
Employed	'000	158.3	-0.2	2.6	8 390.2	—	0.4
Unemployed	'000	13.3	3.1	-7.6	794.5	-0.2	0.6
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.7	0.2	-0.8	8.7	—	0.1
Participation rate(a)	%	73.1	—	0.7	62.9	-0.1	-0.7
JOB VACANCIES, May 97	'000	1.0	—	25.0	58.1	-7.2	8.4
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, May 97							
Working days lost	'000	1.1	266.7	-50.0	65.2	79.6	-60.4
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended May 97)	no.	122.0	-6.2	205.0	103.0	-12.0	2.0
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, Jul 97							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	6.3	43.2	-23.2	692.9	14.5	27.5
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	5.7	—	-50.9	255.1	1.1	24.5
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	50.0	7.8	-1.0	2 804.6	6.9	15.2
Refinancing	\$m	20.8	-8.4	-38.3	880.4	-2.3	-17.3
Total housing commitments	\$m	76.0	7.5	-25.7	4 612.9	5.8	9.2
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	70.3	3.2	-30.7	4 272.0	-0.4	7.9
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	638	-2.9	-23.3	39 264	-1.2	1.3
Total housing commitments	\$m	66.5	-3.3	-18.7	4 289.7	-0.6	12.2
BUILDING APPROVALS, Jul 97							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	107	98.1	-21.9	12 788	9.8	5.3
Value of new residential	\$m	10.6	65.6	-30.3	1 316.6	12.5	6.7
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	3.6	12.5	-42.9	227.7	-8.4	7.7
Value of non-residential	\$m	27.5	111.5	-26.1	1 645.5	53.3	84.7
Value of total building	\$m	41.8	85.0	-28.8	3 189.8	28.0	36.5
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	87	-17.9	-52.5	11 614	-1.3	9.7
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Mar qtr 97							
New houses	no.	276	-4.8	27.2	19 532	-10.6	2.3
Value of houses commenced	\$m	30.4	-6.5	24.1	2 140.0	-10.4	6.4
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	112.5	0.6	72.3	2 832.7	-14.0	-6.1
Value of total commencements	\$m	168.0	-2.1	45.3	6 474.4	-10.7	-1.4
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Jun qtr 97	(1989-90=100.0)	127.3	2.4	-0.1	116.8	1.3	2.8

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0).

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Mar qtr 97)							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	\$m	8.5	-35.1	-34.1	1 948.9	-11.1	-40.3
Value of work done	\$m	13.3	22.0	-5.7	2 005.9	-14.7	7.7
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	28.1	-13.3	1.1	5 529.0	-0.3	9.8
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	16.4	-21.5	4.5	1 312.7	-13.1	-17.1
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, June qtr 97							
Food	(1989-90=100.0)	122.5	0.4	2.4	120.8	0.5	3.2
Housing	(1989-90=100.0)	98.7	-4.5	-12.3	96.9	-3.3	-8.8
Transportation	(1989-90=100.0)	130.7	-0.9	0.6	123.9	-1.0	0.1
All groups	(1989-90=100.0)	120.4	-0.8	-0.8	120.2	-0.2	0.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, May 97							
Original series							
Males	\$	763.2	-1.8	2.8	686.3	-0.3	2.2
Females	\$	563.8	-2.2	4.2	457.4	-0.1	3.7
Persons	\$	664.3	-2.2	3.6	577.5	-0.7	2.3
Trend series							
Males	\$	767.3	-0.4	1.8	688.6	0.6	2.6
Females	\$	566.1	-0.1	5.5	457.4	0.8	3.7
Persons	\$	670.5	0.3	4.4	579.1	0.5	2.6
RETAIL TURNOVER, Jul 97							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	70.9	-7.6	-7.4	4 406.7	6.4	9.0
Department stores	\$m	20.0	-18.4	-15.3	971.3	17.0	6.9
Hospitality and services	\$m	28.3	-8.1	1.4	1 813.7	3.5	3.5
All other retailing	\$m	65.5	-5.8	16.8	3 700.6	5.8	8.4
Total	\$m	184.7	-8.3	0.3	10 892.3	6.6	7.7
Trend series							
Food retailing	'000	74.1	0.3	-8.2	4 417.7	0.2	3.7
Department stores	\$m	21.7	-2.3	-8.4	974.3	1.0	0.6
Hospitality and services	\$m	29.4	—	-1.0	1 854.5	0.5	2.4
All other retailing	%	69.3	1.2	16.9	3 756.1	0.5	4.2
Total	'000	194.5	0.3	0.6	11 002.6	0.4	3.4
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Mar qtr 97							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	203.4	-8.0	2.6	9 193.5	-3.7	0.6
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.2	-7.2	6.7	923.4	-2.4	5.7
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.8	-7.6	6.0	765.1	-2.6	4.3
Room occupancy rate (Jun qtr 97)(a)	%	54.5	-3.5	-9.0	58.6	-1.3	-0.4
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	210.3	-1.0	3.9	9 288.2	-0.3	1.3
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.8	-1.5	8.8	923.8	1.3	6.2
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.3	-1.8	7.9	765.3	1.1	4.8
Trend series							
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Jul 97							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 279	-9.9	35.1	62 092	-8.3	12.9
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 204	-7.4	35.9	57 619	-8.4	12.5
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 206	3.2	28.0	58 856	0.4	9.9

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0).

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, Mar qtr 97(a)							
Original series							
Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 063	-11.8	-1.2	110 954	3.9	3.1
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 554	-12.0	2.0	128 419	4.5	5.0
State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 639	-9.3	-7.2	114 867	9.7	4.0
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 378	-10.1	4.5	79 087	4.3	3.7
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	169	-23.2	-2.9	23 805	27.7	11.5
Trend series							
Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 194	-0.2	-1.1	112 600	0.6	2.6
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 728	-0.4	2.9	129 868	1.2	4.7
State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 791	-0.6	-6.6	112 337	1.2	3.8
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 468	1.2	4.9	79 822	1.0	3.8
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	196	-1.5	-3.0	21 191	1.4	4.8

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0).

Source: ABS Catalogue nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	'000	Dec qtr 96	6 240.9	4 581.6	3 374.3	1 476.8	1 782.7	474.2	184.9	308.5	18 426.9
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Aug 97	2 784.3	2 083.7	1 568.8	661.6	855.9	192.0	86.1	158.3	8 390.2
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Aug 97	8.0	9.2	9.3	9.7	7.1	11.0	5.6	7.7	8.7
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)											
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	Mar qtr 97	38 259	29 439	18 353	7 713	12 919	2 261	1 190	2 194	112 600
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	\$m	Mar qtr 97	45 035	33 637	20 715	9 032	13 956	2 703	1 306	2 728	129 868
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Jul 97	4 189	2 662	3 363	634	1 531	165	137	107	12 788
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Jul 97	3 930	2 529	2 743	606	1 412	151	198	87	11 614
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Jul 97	584.9	228.1	535.1	125.1	105.3	7.8	31.6	27.5	1 645.5
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Jul 97	1 156.7	572.7	888.0	187.0	268.5	25.8	49.3	41.8	3 189.8
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Mar qtr 97	1 068.8	604.3	729.3	187.6	608.9	62.3	27.8	29.8	3 318.7
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	May 97	721.4	693.4	661.3	656.2	694.0	667.4	705.2	790.6	696.7
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	July 97	3 935.1	2 547.7	2 012.5	808.5	1 106.4	264.8	115.5	194.5	11 002.6
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Mar qtr 97	3,145.1	1 519.6	2 469.4	535.7	843.4	260.8	318.5	209.1	9 301.8
Room occupancy rate (original)	%	Mar qtr 97	60.9	59.8	57.3	55.4	57.1	62.9	46.4	54.5	58.6
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	Jul 97	20 130	13 949	11 536	3 830	6 239	1 308	659	1 206	58 856
	Unit	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX											
Food	(b)	June qtr 97	121.5	119.6	119.9	121.9	121.9	121.0	122.0	122.5	120.8
Housing	(b)	June qtr 97	101.8	90.1	103.0	94.1	91.8	98.4	114.6	98.7	96.9
Transportation	(b)	June qtr 97	124.6	123.8	123.7	122.7	122.2	121.7	122.4	130.7	123.9
All Groups	(b)	June qtr 97	120.2	119.9	121.1	121.9	118.1	121.3	121.5	120.4	120.2
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	June qtr 97	115	130	116	122	130	125	117	112	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	June qtr 97	201	192	197	160	178	171	194	193	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	June qtr 97	1205	1033	1084	1141	1076	958	1189	1043	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	June qtr 97	352	387	329	370	353	402	433	377	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	June qtr 97	121	130	116	108	112	77	130	114	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	June qtr 97	606	554	597	539	577	628	592	638	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	June qtr 97	318	286	254	345	350	249	319	291	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	June qtr 97	75.9	73.5	67.1	75.4	77.0	80.0	82.5	79.6	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	June qtr 97	73.7	71.4	64.9	73.0	74.8	77.9	80.5	77.4	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

(b) Base year: 1989-90=100.0.

ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	Dec qtr 96	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.5	-0.1	0.5	-0.1	0.3
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Aug 97	-0.2	-0.1	0.3	—	0.2	-0.1	0.1	-0.2	—
Unemployment rate (trend)	Aug 97	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	-0.2	0.2	—
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Mar qtr 97	0.4	1.4	0.6	0.3	1.1	1.0	—	-0.2	0.6
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	Mar qtr 97	0.9	1.4	1.1	0.8	1.7	1.1	-0.1	-0.4	1.2
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	Jul 97	—	2.0	32.1	6.2	22.1	39.8	-50.4	98.1	9.8
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Jul 97	-1.4	-1.5	-0.8	0.3	0.5	-0.7	1.5	-17.9	-1.3
Value of non-residential building approved	Jul 97	65.7	-41.9	315.8	36.0	94.6	-42.6	20.6	111.5	53.3
Value of all buildings approved	Jul 97	28.1	-22.6	126.5	24.1	35.3	0.8	-18.8	85.0	28.0
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Mar qtr 97	-14.5	-3.9	-20.5	1.0	-16.8	6.9	-51.7	-6.3	-14.1
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	May 97	0.3	1.1	1.3	1.2	0.4	1.5	1.1	-0.3	0.7
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	June 97	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.8	-0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.4
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Mar qtr 97	0.4	0.8	0.8	1.9	0.3	—	3.4	0.2	0.7
Room occupancy rate (original)	Mar qtr 97	—	3.8	-5.4	0.5	-3.2	8.1	-12.1	-3.5	-1.3
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	Jul 97	—	-0.3	1.5	-0.3	1.2	2.3	-3.7	3.2	0.4
	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX										
Food	June qtr 97	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.2	1.4	0.4	0.5
Housing	June qtr 97	-3.0	-3.6	-3.2	-3.5	-3.2	-3.4	-2.7	-4.5	-3.3
Transportation	June qtr 97	-1.0	-1.0	-0.6	-2.3	-0.6	-0.9	-0.2	-0.9	-1.0
All Groups	June qtr 97	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.6	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.8	-0.2
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	June qtr 97	—	—	—	5.2	2.4	—	—	—	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	June qtr 97	—	-0.5	1.5	4.6	0.6	-2.3	—	—	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	June qtr 97	0.2	-4.3	2.9	-1.4	-1.6	-8.8	-6.5	-2.6	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	June qtr 97	-2.5	2.1	-4.1	5.4	-1.1	2.3	4.1	4.1	n.a.
Potatoes	June qtr 97	15.2	13.0	24.7	38.5	-5.9	-13.5	16.1	16.3	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	June qtr 97	9.8	3.9	9.3	7.8	2.9	9.6	10.0	14.1	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	June qtr 97	—	0.4	0.8	—	2.9	0.8	1.3	1.4	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	June qtr 97	-1.6	-2.3	-1.6	-2.7	-0.5	—	0.6	-0.9	n.a.
Unleaded	June qtr 97	-1.6	-2.2	-1.7	-2.9	-0.5	—	0.6	-0.9	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

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